

REMARKS

In the October 28, 2009 Office Action, the Examiner maintained the prior restriction requirement, objected to claims 4-9 as being multiple dependent claims depending from a multiple dependent claim, rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. 1044796 to Krenn and rejected claims 1-3 under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,446,173 to Barrell et al.

In this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the invention, has amended claim 3 to remove the multiple dependency to overcome the Examiner's objection to claims 4-9, and has added new claims 31-32.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections under §102(b) based upon Krenn and Barrell et al.. Amended claim 1 has been amended to recite that the sealing step is performed by "by gluing said semi-manufactured product band to said process foils." Further, claim 31 recites "dispensing a gluing tape" and claim 32 recites depositing fluid glue. These claim amendments are supported at least by the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 28 and continuing onto page 7 of the present Specification. The amended claims have the benefit of providing a relatively easy process avoiding liquid resin to penetrate under the metal or semi-finished product. Krenn and Barrell et al. do not disclose or suggest "process foils" or these gluing recitations of the amended claims.

Applicant does not believe any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, but if any such fees are due, including any necessary extension of time, such fees may be charged to Deposit Account 50-2837.

Respectfully submitted,

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